

Report from Your District Councillors – February 2025

Update on the English Devolution White Paper

At the time of writing, we are waiting to hear from central government with their proposals for the re-arrangement of local government in England. As we said last month, the proposal is for two-tier authorities to be abolished (that is District, Borough and County Councils) and replaced with a unitary authority. It was said that we should hear further from central government by the end of January (which is today as I write) and we wait further detail.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council will be holding an **Extraordinary Full Council meeting on Monday 10 February at 2pm at Elizabeth House, Stratford-upon-Avon** to discuss the implications for the Council from Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation arising from the recent government white paper.

Public attendance at the meeting is on a first come first served basis and capacity is limited to 56 in the Council Chamber, however the meeting will be live streamed on the Council's YouTube channel - [Stratford DC - YouTube](#)

If members of the public wish to speak at the meeting, they must register to speak by 12noon on 5 February 2025 and should contact Democratic Services at committeemanagers@stratford-dc.gov.uk or telephone 01789 260245 for further advice.

Papers for Full Council will be published on Friday 31 January and will be available online at [Agenda for Council on Monday, 10th February, 2025, 2.00 p.m. | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

South Warwickshire Local Plan

The consultation for the South Warwickshire Local Plan is now open and will run until 7 March.

The Preferred Options document identifies 24 potential Strategic Growth locations and 12 potential New Settlement locations, which are an indication of where the councils consider large-scale strategic growth may best be located. ***Not all of these locations will form part of the new local plan once adopted and we encourage as many residents, community groups and organisations and parishes to respond.***

The SWLP team will be undertaking further analysis of the Growth Locations and potential New Settlements to conclude which locations, and specific sites will be most suitable locations for the South Warwickshire's growth strategy. It is really important that residents do respond so that the views of people from this area of the District are made clear to those carrying out the consultation.

The simplest way to respond is via the [online consultation portal](#)

You can respond to each part of the consultation document using the following four questions:

- Do you agree with the approach laid out in the draft policy/policy direction?
- Do you have any further comments on this section?
- Do you have any comments on this Strategic Growth Location/New Settlement?
- Do you have any comments on a specific site proposal or the Housing Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) results?

Each question can be answered with either 'Yes/No/Other' and there is the opportunity to add further comments.

Residents without access the portal have the option to submit their response to the Council below, using the comment form.

Hard copies of the documents are available to view at libraries and at Stratford-on-Avon District Council offices in Stratford-upon-Avon.

If residents require more information or to complete the consultation in a different format, the contact details are as follows:

swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk

01789 267575

Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX

Call for Sites

A further targeted Call for Sites is also being run alongside the Preferred Options consultation. This Call for Sites exercise is only for sites that meet at least one of the purposes below:

- A site that falls within or adjacent to one of the 12 proposed New Settlement Locations
- A Gypsy and Traveller / Travelling Showpeople Site
- A site for commercial or community-led renewable energy generation

We will not be accepting any other sites at this time. Submissions can be made using the interactive form which is available on the SWLP website.

Comments on the 'Preferred Options' consultation, and submissions to the call for sites must be received by **11:59pm on Friday 7 March 2025**.

Events

In addition to the consultation material, which includes videos, posters, and an interactive navigation pane, officers will also be hosting a number of consultation events. These events

are available both online and in person and are an opportunity to ask questions on the consultation, and to go through how to respond to the consultation.

Details on the events are available on the SWLP website. Those which may be of particular interest to residents are:

Online

- Wednesday 12 February between 10-12.
- Monday 24 February 6 – 7.30pm

In-person

- Monday 24 February – 10-4pm – Southam Library

Please see on the SWLP website for the links to the online events.

District Council Budget Consultation

The District Council's Cabinet approved public consultation on the proposals for the next five years from 2025/26 to 2029/30 at its meeting on Monday 13 January.

Have your say

The District Council is seeking your views and suggestions and invite you to complete the survey below.

The budget consultation is now live: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/budgetcons2025>

Deadline for the consultation is Tuesday 4 February.

Community Safety

We are extremely concerned that there has been a spate of criminal incidents across the ward. Both Nigel and Natalie have been in touch with Southam SNT to raise concerns directly. Southam SNT have advised that some elements are believe to be part of organised crime across Warwickshire and have assured us that they are acting on all reports. They are also considering a drop-in event in a more rural area to reach more residents – these are usually held in Southam. The beat manager is also considering arranging a mobile van which goes to the villages across the Southam District, so that residents can meet and raise concerns in person. We have offered all of our support to Southam SNT with these initiatives and once we have further details, we will share them with you.

Finally, Natalie has raised the ongoing concern with getting through on 101 in person with the Police and Crime Commissioner. In spite of these ongoing difficulties, the Police ask residents to please continue to report all crimes to 101 or using the online form. If you or another resident are in immediate danger, then please dial 999.

Deadline for the consultation is Tuesday 4 February.

HS2 Closures

Nigel has had a more meetings with HS2 and their contractors about the proposed closure around Priors Hardwick. These meetings with Sir Jermy Wright and the County Councillor and County Officers have been very unsatisfactory. We feel there is little or no consideration for local communities in HS2 planning. The latest timing is close the Stoneton/Wormeighton Road for all of April, with a two-year closure still planned for the future. There is another closure on the A423 on Saturday 8 February and Sunday 9 February, from 8.30am to 5.30pm. The road will be closed near Wills Pasture. Access via A423 from Ladbroke to Southam (north) is open, but not to Banbury (south). [Notice-of-road-closure-A423-January-2025-v4.pdf](#)

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